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X-MEN
DELUXE

EXCALIBUR

APPROVED
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MUTANT'S
NIGHT
OUT!



DIRECT EDITION



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NOV 91 \$1.95 US \$2.75 CAN

King
-H-
Miles
20-
Dime

"Baby I Love You"

I
FANCY A
DRINK.

A STAN LEE

Story and Dialog
WARREN ELLIS

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I WOULDN'T MIND THAT. Y'KNOW, THE SUNSETS UP HERE ARE BEAUTIFUL.

I'LL SHOW YOU THE SUNSETS IN ~~FREEEX~~ ONE DAY. BEST IN THE WORLD.

A ~~BARD~~ BE A GOOD EXCUSE TO GET OUT FOR THE NIGHT, WOULDN'T IT? WE COULD ALL USE THAT.



ALL OF US? I DUNKO ABOUT THAT, KITTY.

I MEAN, WE'VE BEEN BACK FROM LONDON A FEW DAYS, AND, IF ANYTHING, THE OTHERS'RE EDGIER AROUND ME THAN EVER.

NOW THAT YOU AN' ME ARE, YOU KNOW...



WELL, LISTEN, I THINK IT'S A GREAT IDEA. I'M GONNA GO SEE IF MEGGAN AND BRIAN WANT TO COME.

WHY DON'T YOU GO ASK MOIRAP?

MACTAGGERT? AH, KITTY, FOR GOD'S SAKE --

-- MACTAGGERT HATES ME.









HELLO?
I KNOW YOUR
ROOMS ARE KINDA
OFF-LIMITS IN THE
EVENINGS,
BUT --

COME ON
IN, WE WERE
JUST READING THE
SUNNY PAPER
TOGETHER.

-- ANYONE
FANCY GOING
OUT
TONIGHT?

NOW
THERE'S
AN IDEA.
WHERE
TOP?

WELL, PETE REALLY WANTS
TO GO OUT FOR A DRINK,
SO I GUESS A BAR ON
THE MAINLAND...

YOU KNOW, I CAN'T
REMEMBER THE LAST
TIME I WENT TO A
PUB. YOU?

THERE WAS
THAT PUB IN
GLASGOW THAT
YOU SMASHED TO
WATCHSTICKS.

DOESN'T COUNT. THE
POLICE ASKED ME
TO.

KITTY,
YOU'RE ON. IN
FACT, WE'LL TAKE
THE RUNNER -- IT'S
GOT AN AUTOPILOT
FUNCTION FOR THE
RIDE BACK.

BRIAN -- YOU
DRUNKPROOFED
THE PLANE?



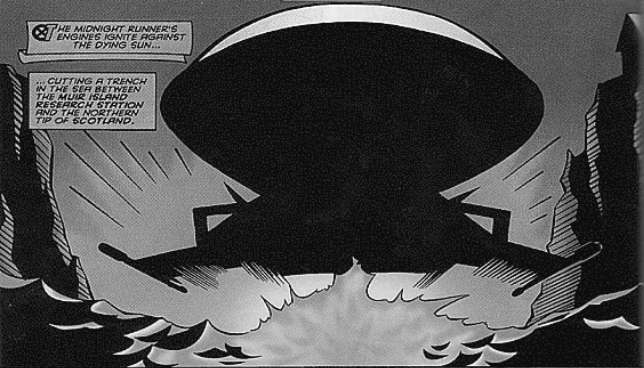






THE MIDNIGHT RUNNER'S
ENGINES IGNITE AGAINST
THE DYING SUN...

...CUTTING A TRENCH
IN THE SEA BETWEEN
THE MUIR ISLAND
RESEARCH STATION
AND THE NORTHERN
TIP OF SCOTLAND.



I
SHOULDNAE
BE DOING
THIS.

I'M NOT
TRYING TO BE
FUNNY, MOIRA,
BUT RORY ISN'T
GOING TO
MISS US.

I SHOULD
BE WATCHING
O'ER RORY,
WORKIN'...



MOIRA, WHAT USE ARE
YOU GOING TO BE TO
ANYONE IF YOU WORK
YOURSELF INTO
EXHAUSTION?

WE
COULD ALL USE
A NIGHT OFF
FROM THE REAL
WORLD, AND
THAT INCLUDES
YOU.



THIS
IS NOT
A GOOD
IDEA.

I
DON'T HAVE
AN IMAGE
INDUCER.

THEY'LL
ALL SEE A
MUTANT BEASTIE
AND RUN US OUT
OF TOWN WITH
PITCHFORKS AND
TORCHES.





NOW, THAT'S
NOT LIKE YOU,
KURT -- AND IT'S
NOT TRUE,
EITHER.

THE PLACE
WE'RE GOING TO
WAS OWNED BY MY
DADDY, TILL HE GAVE
THE FREEHOLD TO THE
MANAGER AND HIS
FAMILY.

THEY'RE
STILL THERE.
GOOD PEOPLE.
TOO. PLAIN FOLK
WHO DON'T
CARE HOW YE
LOOK.

LADY
MOIRA -- YOUR
DADDY -- LORD
KINROSS --
OWNED A --
A --

-- DRINKING
ESTABLISHMENT?!



DINNIE
WORRY ABOUT
STEALING THE
PLANE, KITTY. THEY'RE
PLAIN FOLK WHO
DON'T WORRY ABOUT
HOW PEOPLE
ARRIVE.

JUST
TRY NOT TO
PEEK ON ANY
CARE. THEY
MIGHT FIND
THAT A BIT
RUDE...







Och,
IT STILL
SMELLS THE
SAME --

-- WHEN I
WAS A KEEF
ONE, I'D SNEAK
IN HERE AND
JUST SIT --

-- SMELLING
THE OLD OAK AND
MAHOGANY, THE
SANDUST AN'
WOODSMOKE, UNCLE
JOHN LIGHTIN'
MATCHES OFF HIS
THUMB...

'EVENING,
WHAT'LL IT
BE?



RIGHT, THEN, LET'S
START OFF WITH A
SCOTCH TO SEASON
ME GUTS, SHALL
WE?

Och, YOU'RE
DISGUSTING...



YOU WANTIN'
ICE WIT'
THAT?

WHAT ARE
YOU, SOME KIND
OF PEVERT? I
THOUGHT THIS WAS
SCOTLAND --

ANNIE!



ANNIE
CROSSAN! I
HAVEN'T SEEN
YOU SINCE --
Och, WERE YE
TWELVE?

RUNTIE
MOURA!

I
KNEW IT,
THEY'RE ALL
RELATED UP
HERE.



IS THAT
BIG BLAD YOUR
MACHTIGEST?
SEE IN HERE?

JACK
CROSSAN --
GOD, Y'ERE
LOOKIN' GOOD
F'R YOUR AGE,
JACK!

YE CHEEKY
WEE BAWHEIN,
C'MERE...

O!
WAGNER!

C'MON, MISERY-GUTS, I'LL BUY YOU A
PINT. THEY'VE GOT A GERMAN BEER BACK
'ERE IN BOTTLES -- DINKEL
SOMETHING?



DINKEL ACKERPACK,
IT'S BEEN YEARS...
MUTTI'S MILK...

HE'LL
HAVE ONE
O' THEM
DINKY
THINGS...

"HERE WE GO," THINKS
KURT WAGNER, AS THE
BARMAID'S EYES FILL UP
WITH HIS FACE --

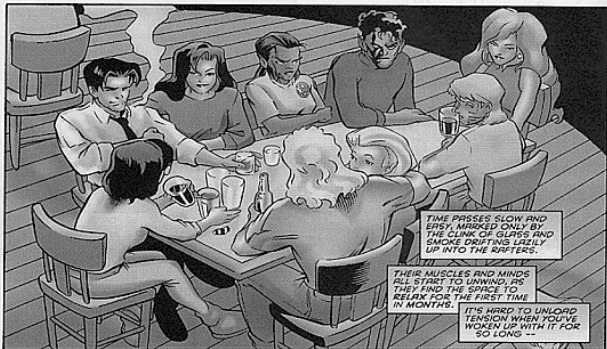


Och, MAN, IT'S SUPPOSED
TO TURN COLD, AND NAE
BLUE FUR'S GRUNNY KEEP
THE CHILL OUT.



HAVE A
WHISKEY,
WAG IT.





TIME PASSES SLOW AND EASY, MARKED ONLY BY THE CLINK OF GLASS AND SMOKE DRIFTING LAZILY UP INTO THE RAFTERS.

THEIR MUSCLES AND MINDS ALL START TO UNWIND, AS THEY FIND THE SPACE TO RELAX FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MONTHS.

IT'S HARD TO UNLOAD TENSION WHEN YOU'VE WORKED UP WITH IT FOR SO LONG --

-- BUT MOIRA MACTAGGERT SEEMS TO BE MANAGING.



SOO, YOUSE TWA, WHIT'S HAPPENEN EXACKTLY HEERE?



WHIT?

WASF?

HUM?

WHAT?



SORRY, MAACCENT ALWAYS GETS A BIT THICKER AFTER A BEER OR TWO.

I MEAN, WHAT'S HAPPENIN' EXACKTLY BETWEEN YOU TWO?







LAUGHING LIKE
CHILDREN...

DANCING LIKE
ELEPHANTS...



CAN-CAN (KANKAN)
A HIGH KICKING
DANCE PERFORMED
BY A FEMALE CHORUS.

STRESS ANALYSIS
ON VERY OLD BAR
TABLE FOLLOWS --



TREBLES
AND STARK
INCOMPREHENSION
ALL 'ROUND THEN,
LADS?

JA...



SUNSHINE STROKES

Dear Sward Strokes,

This is my first time writing to you guys so prepare yourselves. Your book is my favorite X-book, and I collect them all. You guys are great. Not only are the writers and the artists great but you guys continue to surprise me.

When you pulled Pete Wisdom into the book I had to write. Please don't get rid of him. It's a breath of fresh air in the book. At first, I thought he would be a cheap Gambit rip-off (with the trench coat and all), but I found this guy is very different from Gambit. Pete Wisdom has a lot of depth. And his great mutant power is just a bonus!

Thank you also for his recent involvement with Kitty. She is my favorite X-character and it is good to see that at least one guy notices her for the catch she is. It is about time that she gets over that loser Peter Rasputin anyway. Hey, the guy didn't know the good thing he had, so though. I think she and Pete Wisdom make an awesome couple.

I have only one question for you and that is what is going on with Kitty's dad? You guys started to get into that he was in some sort of trouble and then dropped the whole thing for the Phoenix Covenant, so when are we going to find out about him?

Well, I have taken enough of your time. Until Kitty smashes the whole team and runs off with Belasco to rule Limbo, make mine Marvel.

Erika Burke
Charlottesville, VA

Your favorite X-book, Erika? That's quite an honor. Thanks!

As far as Pete goes, he's not going anywhere—at least for the moment. And things with Kitty have started to heat up considerably—especially with the entry of Mair Isle's latest surprise guest!

Oh! And about Kitty's dad—stay tuned! He's in over his head and the revival of an "old boys club" may just prove fatal!

Dear Sward Strokes,

Re: EXCALIBUR #26

Hi. I can't say? As the issues keep coming, I find that EXCALIBUR is neck-to-neck with my favorite book, X-FACTOR. The writing for the last few issues has been great. Personally, I hate the plot/script idea because it seems to stop the scripter from being creative.

I would like to comment on three characters in order of popularity:

Britanic: I love how you continue to develop him. I hope he and Meggan go together.

Moirai: I always thought she was a mysterious character. I love that she's in a monthly X-book now so that someone can develop her fully. I hope she talks to Wolfsbane soon.

Douglock: I love how he has a boy-like curiosity now. I liked how he made his

face like that picture on pages 18 and 19 of issue #86.

Before I go, I would like to praise Warren Ellis: I love the way you handle EXCALIBUR. The book seems to have a family feel now. Stay on the book as long as you want.

Until Kitty and Nightcrawler find out they're the Impossible Man's parents, make mine Marvel!

LaTorre Mays
Pine Bluff, AR

Thanks for putting out the welcome wagon for Warren, LaTorre. We've loved his stories, also! And speaking of impossible Man, check out the CABLE/X-FORCE SPECIAL, coming out this summer, brought to you by the talented team-up of X-writers, Jeff Loebl and Mark Waid!

Dear Sward Strokes,

I applaud you guys for the path EXCALIBUR has recently undertaken. A much deserved bit of recognition for Gaffney (for steering the title in a new direction), Lashley (for the remarkable artwork), and to all the people behind EXCALIBUR. I tremendously enjoy the title. My gratitude, also, for the redesigning of the nameplate EXCALIBUR.

And now for my comments and queries.

1. Everyone knows that Colossus and Wolfsbane will soon be joining the ranks of Excalibur. Please have both Peter and Rahne join the team without extracting Britanic and Meggan away from Excalibur.

2. Spoor doesn't seem to be infected with the Legacy Virus: why then is he in need of any treatment?

Please end my confusion by answering my queries. You can expect me to support EXCALIBUR for as long as you continue giving us fans a fresh and remarkable issue each month.

Ricky M. Briones
Fairview, Quezon City
Philippines

Thanks for the kudos to the crew, Ricky. Comics are a collaborative medium and the recognition is greatly appreciated.

Now, on to clearing the confusion...

1) Good idea. Consider it done. Colossus may have some difficult transitional days, but with his old friends, we think he'll feel at home before too long. Oh, and about Rahne—now that she's come home, she's about to come face-to-face with the vengeful Reverend Craig—a nightmare from her past that she's never gotten over!

Don't miss the non-stop action featuring these two characters in the next two issues of EXCALIBUR!!

2) You're right, Ricky, Spoor is not infected with the Legacy Virus. He does, however, have a problem with self-control,

or the control of others, (which is probably how he'd view the situation) as we've been privy to in the recent incidents in "The Pen."

Dear Sward Strokes,

You guys are wonderful: you've got the great art and stories that've kept fans like me hooked, and the characters that we all know and love.

The stories are terrific: Warren Ellis, I salute you! I love the darker tone he's given to the stories and that he's been giving Kitty a few more major roles in the book. The Soulsword Trilogy and now the start of the Dream Nails Trilogy were great. The stories are starting to sound something like the X-files. (No pun intended.) Which is to say that they're not at all bad.

And speaking of Dream Nails, I have some questions for you about Kitty, Pete, and Black Air.

Kitty: She's the all-American, teenage, mutant, nana girl-next-door, isn't she? Kitty is great just the way she is, but could you toughen her up a little bit? Maybe make her a bit like the Age of Apocalypse Shadowcat (before she was squashed, preferably). The Cat's got a mean streak, so play it up.

And just out of curiosity: what's her track record with tall dark-haired guys with funny accents?

Pete: He's pretty cool. Are you going to keep him around or just write him off after this story? Please keep him.

Black Air: These guys are way more sinister than the W.H.O. How much are you going to tell us about them? Did they get the W.H.O.'s record on Excalibur? What race are the Aliens that they've captured?

Keep up the great work!

Lani Fukuda
Hawthorn, HI

Lots o' questions and comments, Lani, so here's jump right in!

We think what makes Kitty so wonderful is that she's as tough as nails when she needs to be, yet her kindness and sweetness are as great a part of her as her ability to phase, so...let's just see how she develops, naturally.

Pete Wisdom's a keeper, though Peter Rasputin may have other ideas...

We wouldn't be surprised if Black Air had files on everybody... And the race they've captured? Why that's the Uncreated. Check 'em out in the 4-issue STARJAMMERS limited Series, coming out—now!!

NEXT ISSUE:

It's Pete vs. Pete in an all-out, no-holds-barred organic steel vs. hot knife fist/cuff fest! Don't miss it!



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want your
full name
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tell us!

SUZANNE
GAFFNEY
EDITOR

BOB
HARRAS
CHIEF

DESIGN BY COMICART



TIME, QUITE PROPERLY SMASHED,
STOPS FOR A LIE DOWN ABOUT
TEN O'CLOCK...

GOD,
THIS JUKEBOX
IS OUT OF THE
REX.

OK, HERE'S
THE RAMONES --
THIS IS THE SOUND
OF BEING IN LOVE
WHEN YOU'RE
SIXTEEN AND
FORGET
EVERYONE
ELSE --

"-- BABY,
I LOVE
YOU."



BRIAN, INTERROGATIVE!
I STILL DO NOT
UNDERSTAND WHY YOU
DRINK ALCOHOLIC
BEVERAGES.



KEEP THIS UNDER
YOUR HAT, DOUGLOCK,
BUT I DON'T. THIS IS A
NON-ALCOHOLIC DRINK.
LORD KNOWS I DID.

SOMETIMES
I MISS IT. TEETERED
ON THE BRINK THERE
FOR A LITTLE
WHILE.

SOME PEOPLE
FIND IT RELAXING.
THINK IT TASTES
GOOD.

BUT IT IS THE
COGENER
CHEMICALS IN THE
BEVERAGE THAT
CARRY THE TASTE,
AND IT IS THEY
THAT CREATE
"HANGOVERS."



THE ALCOHOL
INDUCES
DIURESIS,
DEHYDRATING
YOU -- BLOOD
VESSELS DILATE
UNNATURALLY --

THE FAT CONTENT
OF THE LIVER ALTERS,
SCORING IT -- NERVE
FIBERS RECEIVE A
REDUCED VITAMIN
INTAKE

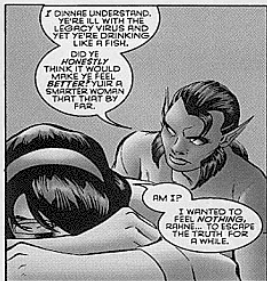
-- THE BRAIN
SHRINKS --



LIKE MOST ANYTHING
THAT'S TEMPTING, IT
HAS A POWERFUL
DOWNSIDE.

DOUGLOCK --
IF YOU CAN FIND A
REAL ANSWER TO YOUR
QUESTION, YOU'RE
A BETTER MAN
THAN I.

SUFFERIN'
DUCK! YE
CLUTY' AULD
GALLOOT!



THE STARS ARE OUT, A MESS
OF DIAMONDS OVER BLACK
VELVET, DUSTING SILVER
OVER THEIR EYES AND HAIR...

DINNAAE
LOOK
RAHNEY.

IT'S
FILTHY.

-surp-

MOIRA,
IF YOU THROW
UP IN THE BACK OF
BRIAN'S PLANE
IT'S GONNA STAY
THERE UNTIL YOU
CLEAN IT UP.

Mmmm...
NOW, WASN'T
THAT WORTH
IT, KURT?

JA, AS
TEAM LEADER,
I ORDER THAT
WE MUST ALL GO
OUT ONCE A
MONTH, WHETHER
WE NEED IT
OR NOT.

HAHAHAHAHA

UP THE
WOODEN HILL
TAE BED-FORD-
SHIRE.

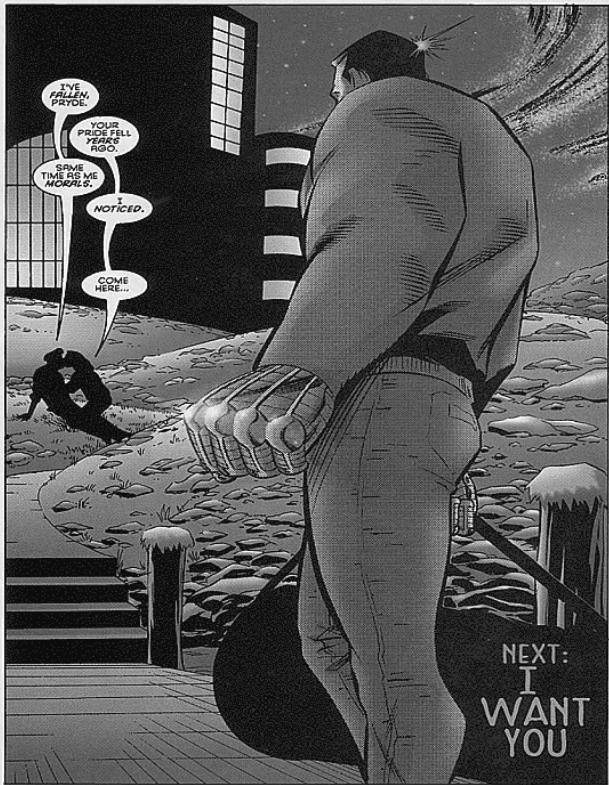
-YAWN-

BEDFORDSHIRE'S
IN ENGLAND, YOU
STUPID BLOODY
JOCK...

SHE
MEANS
'BED.'

Och,
AWA' AW'
BOO, YOUR
HEAD...

-giggle-



NEXT:
I
WANT
YOU